



Corporal Brent Donald Poland

1969 - 2007

AFGHANISTAN PEACEKEEPING

Army: The Royal Canadian Regiment, 2nd Battalion,
Hotel Company

Brent Poland was born in 1969 in Sarnia, the first child of Donald and Patricia Poland of Camlachie. Brent's younger brother Mark also served in the military including with the 1st Hussars locally to serving overseas as a Lieutenant with the Royal Canadian Dragoons, part of UN Forces in Bosnia. Mark is currently Lieutenant-Colonel with the Royal Highland Fusiliers of Canada.

For Brent Poland, after obtaining two university degrees, at age 32, he followed "his heart and his passion" and joined the Canadian Armed Forces in 2002. He became a member of the Royal Canadian Regiment (RCR), 2nd Battalion.

In August 2005, Canadian personnel were transferred to southern Afghanistan and based in Kandahar. Any time that Canadian soldiers left the relative safety of their main camps to go "outside the wire," the danger was very real. The Taliban was more familiar with the terrain and the enemy was not easily identifiable. Suicide bombers could also be anyone and the countryside was riddled with IEDs. Beginning in March 2007, the objective of Operation Achilles was to clear the Taliban from the violent northern districts of Helmand province—NATO's focus was primarily to re-open the hydroelectric dam to supply the region with electricity. Corporal Poland's RCR, 2nd Battalion "Hotel Company" was a mechanized infantry company, and Brent served as a light machine gunner in Bravo section, 2 platoon. They were tasked with providing security for massive convoys of soldiers and material being moved from Kandahar City into Helmand province.

On April 8, 2007, Easter Sunday, the 2nd Battalion was escorting a convoy through the desert to British soldiers. On that day, the LAVIII that Corporal Poland was travelling in struck a roadside IED, triggering a massive explosion. Corporal Poland and five other comrades from 22 Bravo Section, who were all sitting in the rear passenger compartment of the vehicle, were killed instantly in the explosion. The attack was the largest single-day combat death toll suffered by Canadian troops since the Korean War. A full military funeral with honours was held in Sarnia. Brent Poland, 37, is buried in Bear Creek Cemetery in Brigden.



**THE SARNIA
WAR REMEMBRANCE
PROJECT**

by Tom Slater and Editor Tom St. Amand